

TOPEKA STATE JOURNAL

BY FRANK E. MAC LENNAN.

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FULL LEASED WIRE REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

The State Journal is a member of the Associated Press and receives the full day telegraph report of that great news organization for exclusive afternoon publication in Topeka.

The news is received in the State Journal building over wires for this sole purpose.

New trusts are being formed faster than the attorney general of the United States seems able to smash them.

An opera company with a chorus made up of women who married Johann Hech and survived, ought to make a hit.

By burning their corn for fuel the Iowa farmers are depriving the railroads of two profits—one on the corn and one on coal.

Mosquitoes are said to have a natural monopoly of the yellow fever business and are therefore under no necessity of incorporating a trust.

The people of Kansas in their present temper probably would give Tom Lawson an ovation. If he should appear suddenly within the borders of the state.

Grand Rapids Herald: The Standard Oil company and Kansas are at war. The trust will levy on the rest of the country, no doubt, to meet expenses.

Arrangements have about been completed for allowing the Reed Snoot case to go over without a decision being rendered until congress meets again in December.

It appears that there was needless alarm about the Standard Oil company's lack of money. Regardless of the announcement that it is unable to negotiate a loan owing to the disturbance in Kansas, it has just declared a quarterly dividend of 15 per cent.

Tom Lawson's "Frenzied Finance" articles appear to have had some effect on the Standard Oil company's business. The dividend for the current quarter is but 15 per cent, while for the same quarter last year it was 16 per cent.

It looks as though Kansas has started something, as she did in the '50s, that will involve the nation in a war for the liberation of an oppressed class. The Standard Oil company stands in the place of the slave power, and the weapons used will be legislation and ballots instead of guns.

Even the presidency of the United States has its penalties. Mr. Roosevelt is not allowed to move outside of the White House without being surrounded by a lot of armed guards and detectives. This sort of thing, doubtless, is extremely distasteful to the president, but it seems that he cannot escape it.

Philadelphia Record: It is only six weeks since the administration instituted proceedings for an injunction against the General Paper company of Wisconsin on the ground that it was an unlawful trust and a combination in restraint of trade, and now the news from Appleton, in that state, is that a new pulp mill combination has been formed and is to be incorporated in New Jersey, of course. Is this a scheme for circumventing the attorney general?

That was one of the "lucky" theater fires that damaged the Casino, says the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, and probably ended the present building's career as a theater. The mere fact that it was a "second-story theater" made the Casino an exceedingly unsafe house. A fire or a fire alarm when the audience was in would almost inevitably have caused just another such "horror" as the burning of the Iroquois theater. That the fire came when the theater was practically empty is a fact on which all concerned should congratulate themselves.

THE "MOVE ON" POLICY.

As might reasonably have been expected the closing of the Louisiana Purchase exposition has left an army of men stranded in St. Louis. The police have undertaken to drive all the idle ones out of the city and are deporting them at the rate of from 40 to 100 per day.

The police say that while many of these men are honest workmen out of jobs, a large element is criminal, and as it is difficult to distinguish one from another, all are "given hours" and are told to "move on."

The situation affords the Post-Dispatch a text for the following sermon: "Consider the significance of the fact and the explanation. What a miserable failure at a vital point of our civilization they suggest!"

"We do not solve the problem of the unemployed by forcing the idle workmen to 'move on,' nor do we approach a reasonable solution of the problem of crime by driving criminals out of town. The 'move on' method of dealing with social and industrial problems does not solve anything; it does not arrive any-

where; it merely aggravates the conditions and postpones the settlement. "Nothing could be more futile and inhuman than the passing on of an army of idle men and criminals by public authorities, with neither the capacity nor the energy to meet the problem they present. These men pass through the country, going from city to city. The cities exchange them. Apparently we have no thought of the criminality of sending out criminals to prey upon others, nor of the inhumanity of sending honest, idle men from place to place, until they are driven into crime. "The folly of the endless chain of the idle and criminal elements does not seem to occur to our wise authorities, who are satisfied with getting rid of them for a brief time.

JAYHAWKER JOYS.

Seneeca is the home of the man who helped capture John Brown.

Abilene has one thing to brag of. There is no danger of a coal famine.

Mr. Doolittle of Sabetha, having little to do, is spending the week in Kansas City.

A Cuyahoga pie social raked in clear \$15. Now how much did the investment cost?

On unimpeachable authority the crop of peaches in Nemaha county is not yet killed.

One Concordia butcher shipped east last week over 75,000 rabbits. What he did the rest of the time is a mystery.

Emporia is sending to Topeka for coal. But this doesn't seem unnatural, does it? The school children can see nothing wonderful in this.

Cottonwood Falls had a baby show at one of the churches recently. Most of the actresses dug out the little dresses from trunks packed years ago.

An Augusta woman started in the week with the grip, asthma and toothache. What is worrying her now is that there is yet Friday and Saturday.

GLOBE SIGHTS.

[From the Atchison Globe.]

Lots of people are worthless about answering letters.

Every sign painter has an ambition to paint a sign for himself.

We never could guess; we predicted that the present winter would be a mild one.

About the most shiftless thing in this world is the average business correspondence.

"I don't like your steam heat," said a farmer who lately moved to town. "I want something that will roar; a wood fire in a box stove."

There are a number of children have their noses flattened against the window panes a half hour before he is due.

We long for the season when we can go out and rather a daisy, so that we can pick off its petals one by one, and settle questions of grave importance.

A New York woman is noted for her staid elbow. You may laugh, but it is said that a perfect elbow is the rarest of all human beauty.

A man arrested in Kansas City lately for stealing bread for his suffering wife and children, was as drunk as a lord at the time the theft was committed.

"She," every Princess daughter argues to herself while lying snug in bed in the morning, when her mother builds the fire, "doesn't mind it. Why, mother is so in the habit of getting up early she simply couldn't lie in bed late if she tried!"

Some woman somewhere (we regret a bad memory for details) said upon her deathbed: "I have had a great many troubles, but the greatest never happened." This of this the next time you are worried; isn't it over something that may never happen?

Nick, when was restless last night, because of dyspepsia, and, going out to the kitchen, said to his stomach: "If you are acting up because of crackers and milk, I'll give you something to eat. So he fried some buckwheat cakes, and ate them.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

[From the Philadelphia Record.]

Lots of men are brave when it is too late.

It's the people who are green that are done up brown.

We can generally find fault where it has never been lost.

Virtue is its own reward, and even the nit requires constant practice.

Treading on other people's toes won't get you very far up in the world.

BEGINS AT ONCE.

Government Agent Is Coming to Kansas Immediately.

To Begin Investigation of Standard Oil Methods.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The commissioner of corporations, James R. Garfield, is today preparing to send his special agent at once to Kansas to make investigation of Standard Oil acts under the terms of the resolution of P. P. Campbell of Kansas adopted in the house of representatives yesterday.

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THEY FIX IT UP.

Waterworks Control Measure Is Agreed Upon.

Provides That Councils Shall Have Partial Control.

At a meeting of the committee on cities of the first class, two important bills were agreed upon and will today be reported to the house.

One is the bill providing for the method of managing waterworks, electric light plants and power plants under municipal control; the other is the bill to amend the present atrocious provisions of the public utilities section of the city charter act.

The bill for the control of waterworks is of special interest to the people of Topeka. It is, as finally agreed upon, a compromise between the Stone bill, which proposed to establish by statute the status of the board of trustees and give them exclusive control of the waterworks, and the Bird bill, which proposed to place the whole responsibility for the control in the hands of the city council.

The bill as agreed upon as a compromise provides that the city council shall by ordinance create a board of trustees, who shall be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council, and who shall have the right to initiate the plans for the control of the plant, which must, to be effective, be confirmed by the council. The council can not act without suggestion from the board, and the board can not act without consent of the council.

The following is a summary of the bill, which seems to be the whole rather more inclined to the Bird bill than to the Stone bill, since it gives the council the right to create the board, and hence to regulate it to a great extent by ordinance.

The following are the provisions of the bill:

"Section 1 provides that the mayor and council shall provide by ordinance for the creation of a board of commissioners and fix their salaries. In cities of the first class the board may be of either three or five members; in cities of the second class three persons; in cities of the third class one person.

"Section 2 provides that the commissioners shall serve for three years, one term expiring each year. They shall hold no other office and shall give bond as required by the mayor and council. If the board is composed of five persons they shall have five year terms.

"Section 3 provides that the board of commissioners shall recommend to the mayor and council a schedule of rates, and such extensions or renewals as may be reasonable; also such employees as may be necessary.

"Section 4 says that the mayor and council shall provide for rates, provide for employees and fix salaries upon the recommendation of the board of water commissioners. When such appointments are once appointed, they shall not be removed from service, except for inefficiency, or neglect of duty.

"Section 5 provides that the revenue from the plant shall be placed in the city treasury in a separate fund, which cannot be diverted except when not needed to operate the plant or pay bonds.

"Section 6 allows a city to sell water, fuel, power or light to anyone in the city.

"Section 7 says: No extensions to said plant shall be made by any board of commissioners until there shall be applications made from and agreements signed by persons along the proposed extension in sufficient number so that the revenue from said proposed extension will in the judgment of the board be ample to justify making such extension for political reasons, or for any other such reasons as shall be considered by the board or commissioner and any other city official, and for such offense said board or commissioner shall be removed from office."

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After hearing from Joab Mulvane, T. F. Doran, and the representatives

State Auditor Seth Wells says that he will not approve the bonds in connection with the state oil refinery measure until the supreme court has passed upon the validity of the law.

"I do not care to cross the bridge until I get to it," said Mr. Wells this morning, but I do not hesitate to say this: The bonds for the state oil refinery will not be approved until the supreme court decides that the measure is legal. It has been suggested that we go ahead with the bonds and let the standard gang do the investigation is sure to come the state has been getting it at the start. The action of the supreme court need not hold up the state refinery for any length of time. Thirty days is plenty for the attorneys to squabble over it, and then the supreme court could decide the case on the docket. I wouldn't care to approve bonds for a proposition of the kind unless I knew they were legal."

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Dr. Hayes stated that the signers of these petitions were in a great many instances church people and parties of no less to exhibit, who in reality were sided in against the illegal traffic of intoxicating liquors, but who nevertheless were adding in the existence of the whiskey drug stores through a hurried signing of petitions without a careful investigation as to the character of the parties applying for the permit.

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